

# PAPERS READ

BEFORE THE

## LANCASTER COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY

FRIDAY, JUNE 6, 1913.

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"History herself, as seen in her own workshop."

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THADDEUS STEVENS AND THE SOUTHERN STATES.

SOCIETY'S ANNUAL OUTING.

MINUTES OF THE JUNE MEETING.

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VOL. XVII. NO. 6.

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## Thaddeus Stevens and the Southern States

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Thaddeus Stevens was very bitter in his political enmity to the Southern States. He resented the influence in both the Houses of Congress of the members from that section, which usually returned, by re-election, most of its able men, therefore giving it preponderance of influence owing to the ability and experience of its representatives who were trained in politics. For this reason, at the close of the Civil War, he was opposed to the trial of Jefferson Davis and others for treason, as it was only the individual and not a State who could commit the crime; therefore, if the individual was convicted there would be nothing to prevent the other voters of a State from electing representatives to Congress, especially if the North held that the Southern States would not secede from the Union. This stand would make his ground tenable, that the United States recognized the belligerency of the South during the war, and, therefore, the Confederate States become conquered territory and would not be entitled to Congressional representation. His idea was to wipe out State lines and organize the territories of Lincoln, Grant, Sherman, Sheridan and other territories to be named after Union officers and govern them the same as the other territorial governments in the United States.

This view of Stevens doubtless, to a great extent, influenced his course in the case of Senator C. C. Clay, Jr., of Alabama, at the close of the war.

Clement Claiborne Clay, Jr., 1819-

1882, was United States Senator from Alabama, from 1853 to 1861, and after the breaking out of the Civil War he was a member of the Confederate Senate and was sent to Canada, in 1864, on a secret mission, with a view to arousing in the public mind there a sympathy for the Southern cause that would assist in inducing a suspension of hostilities. He was a son of C. C. Clay, Sr., who had also represented Alabama in the United States and was at one time Governor of that State.

Richard Jacobs Haldeman, 1831-1885, whose letters to Mrs. Clay follow, was a son of Jacob Miller Haldeman 1781-1856. The latter was born in Lancaster county, and removed to Harrisburg in 1830. He married, in 1810, Elizabeth E. Jacobs, 1789-1844, daughter of Samils Jacobs, of Spring Grove, Lancaster county. His son, Rochard, married Margaret, a daughter of the late Senator Simon Cameron. Richard was a full cousin to the late Professor S. S. Haldeman, of Chickies. He graduated at Yale in 1851, and also at Heidelberg and Berlin Universities. He was an attache to the American Legation to France, during President Pierce's administration, and a member of the U. S. House of Representatives from the 19th district (Cumberland, Adams and York counties) during the 41st and 42d Congress. For several years he was the editor of the Harrisburg Patriot and Union and founder of the Harrisburg Daily Patriot. Mr. Haldeman was a friend of C. C. Clay, Jr., in the ante bellum days.

After the assassination of President Lincoln, the charge was made that Clay was a party to the plot, and that the conspiracy was formed while he was in Canada. President Johnson issued a proclamation offering a reward



for the capture of Davis and Clay, the amount of the reward for the latter being \$25,000, although at the time it was frequently incorrectly given as \$100,000.

When Clay learned of Lincoln's assassination, he exclaimed, "God help us! If that be true, it is the worst blow that has been struck at the South," and on hearing of the reward for his capture, instead of attempting to escape, as he was advised to do by many friends, he said to his wife, "As I am conscious of my innocence, my judgment is that I should at once surrender to the nearest Federal authorities," and sent the following telegram:

"Bt. Major General Wilson, United States Army:

"Seeing the proclamation of the President of the United States, I go to-day, with the Honourable P. Phillips, to deliver myself to your custody.

"C. C. CLAY, JR."

Clay started at once for Macon, Ga., where he surrendered to General Wilson, in May, 1865, from where he was removed to Fort Monroe with Jefferson Davis, who had been captured.

It seems that the first intention was to try Clay as a party to the plot to assassinate Lincoln and, when this was abandoned, then to try him for treason. Mrs. Clay at once started her indefatigable efforts in her husband's behalf and interested many prominent men of the North, among them Charles O'Connor, the great New York lawyer; T. W. Pierce, of Boston; Robert J. Walker, Benjamin Wood, editor and proprietor of the New York Daily News; Horace Greeley, Judge Jeremiah Black, of York, and Richard J. Haldeman, of Harrisburg.

The first we hear of Mr. Stevens'

interest in the matter is the following letter to Mrs. Clay from Mr. Halde-  
man:

“Harrisburg, July 24, 1865.

“Mrs. C. C. Clay:

“My Dear Madam: Your exceedingly affecting letter did not reach me until long after it was written..... So soon as it was practicable, I visited Honorable Thaddeus Stevens at his home in Lancaster city. I selected Mr. Stevens more particularly on account of his independence of character, his courage, and his disposition, intellectual and official leadership in the lower House of Congress, and in his party. It is not necessary for me to tell you, Madam, that, knowing your husband, I never had a suspicion of his complicity in the assassination of Mr. Lincoln, but you will be gratified to learn that Mr. Stevens scorned the idea of either his guilt or that of any prominent sojourners in Canada.

“Mr. Stevens holds, that as the belligerent character of the Southern States was recognized by the United States, neither Mr. Davis nor Mr. Clay can be tried for treason..... That, if tried, Mr. Clay should be tried in Alabama. You will perceive, then, my dear Madam, that connected with the proposed trial of your husband, there are profound questions of statesmanship and party. On this account, Mr. Stevens would not like to have his name prematurely mentioned. He is using his great political influence in the direction indicated, and it is, of course, much greater when he is not known as the counsel of Mr. Clay.....I promised to see Mr. Stevens so soon as the form and place of trial are announced..... Mr. Stevens will be a tower of strength, and command attention and

respect from President, Secretary and Congress.

"Hoping, Madam, when I address you again, it will be under happier auspices, I am

"R. J. Haldeman."

"Several years later Mr. Stevens reiterated these statements to one of the editors of the New York Tribune, who again quoted Mr. Stevens' remarks in an able editorial."

Judge Joseph Holt, of Kentucky, who was at the time Judge Advocate General of the Army and Judge Advocate of the Military Commission which tried those accused of the plot to assassinate Lincoln, seems to have had a personal animosity against Clay. Holt had been a member of President Buchanan's Cabinet as Postmaster General and Secretary of War, and also, at that time, a strong personal friend of Clay's. The latter claimed that Holt's animosity to him and Davis was owing to the fact that on the breaking out of the Civil War Holt had espoused the cause of the South and they had knowledge of this. One of Clay's friends said that Holt was "a man who had forsaken his own section for gain." Secretary Stanton supported Holt in his persecution of Clay.

Mrs. Clay interested General Grant in her husband's case, who wrote President Johnson, on November 26, 1865:

".....I now respectfully recommend the release of Mr. C. C. Clay. The manner of Mr. Clay's surrender, I think, is full guarantee that if released on parole, to appear when called for, either for trial or otherwise, that he will be forthcoming."

The continued incarceration of Clay

without trial began to raise criticism in the North. Mrs. Clay writes: "Early in the month of February two important letters reached me through Mr. R. J. Haldeman. They were addressed to the President, and bore the signature of Thaddeus Stevens and Robert J. Walker, respectively. Since my letter addressed to him in May, 1865, Mr. Haldeman's efforts had been unremitting in my husband's behalf with those whose recommendations were likely to have most weight with the President and his advisors. He now wrote me as follows:

"Mrs. C. C. Clay, Jr.

"My Dear Madam: I enclose you a very handsome letter from the Honourable R. J. Walker to the President. I also sent you the letter of Mr. Stevens, which has become of some importance in view of Mr. Stevens' recent utterances. Mr. Walker considers it of the highest importance, and wonders how I obtained it.

"After seeing you, I called on Mr. Stevens in reference to the proposed visit (to you), but found him brooding over the violent speech which he has since made. I did not, therefore, deem it prudent to insist upon the performance of his promise and am confirmed in my judgment by events.

"During the day I heard something which convinced me the President would not then act. This I could not bring myself to tell you, and therefore obeyed a hasty summons to New York by an unceremonious departure from Washington. As the future unfolds, I hope to be again at Washington and at the propitious moment. I hope you will keep up your good spirits, for, upon the faith of a some-

what phlegmatic and never oversanguine Dutchman, I think the period of Mr. Clay's release approaches rapidly.....Mr. Walker, however, desires me to say to you that 'as we must all go to Clay at last, why not go at once?' I think this pointed witticism would bear repetition to the President.

"I am, very respectfully, Madam,

"Yours,

"R. J. HALDEMAN."

"February 3, 1866."

Senator Henry Wilson, of Massachusetts, then took up the question of Mr. Clay's release and wrote the President the following letter. Mr. Johnson at the time made the remark, it is claimed, that Mr. Wilson would not commit himself to writing as "He fears the Radical press too much":

"His Excellency, the President of the United States.

"Sir: Mrs. Clay, the wife of Clement C. Clay, is now in the city, and has requested me to obtain permission for her husband to go to his home on parole. His father is said to be at the point of death, his mother recently deceased, and, if there be no objections or reasons unknown to me why the request of Mrs. Clay should be denied, I have no hesitation in recommending its favorable consideration, if only from motives of humanity, as I have no doubt Mr. Clay will be forthcoming when his presence is again required by the Government.

"I have the honor to be,

"Very respectfully, your obedient servant,

"H. WILSON."

Although many Confederates, who had held prominent official positions, had been released, among them Vice President Stephens, Secretary of the Navy Mallory and Admiral Semms, owing to the continued bitter opposition of Secretary Stanton and Judge Holt, the release of Mr. Clay was not effected until some six weeks after Mr. Wilson had written the President, when the following order was issued:

“War Department,

“Washington, D. C., April 17, 1866.

“Ordered:

“That Clement C. Clay, Jr., is hereby released from confinement and permitted to return and remain in the State of Alabama, and to visit such other places in the United States as his personal business may render absolutely necessary, upon the following conditions, viz.: That he take the oath of allegiance to the United States, and give his parole of honour to conduct himself as a loyal citizen of the same, and to report himself in person at any time and place to answer any charges that may hereafter be preferred against him by the United States.

“By order of the President,

“E. D. TOWNSEND,

“Ass’t Adj’t General.”

It is stated that this order was originally prepared for the signature of Secretary Stanton, but the words “Secretary of War” had been crossed out. The form of an adjutant general signing by order of the President instead of the secretary of war was unusual to say the least.

Mr. Clay’s release at this time was no doubt owing to sacrifice and untiring energy of his wife, to whom Judge Black wrote: “Tell your great and

good husband I could do nothing for him, because his magnificent wife left nobody else a chance to serve him."

Mrs. Clay was the daughter of the Rev. Payton Randolph Tunstall. Her mother's father was General William Arrington, of North Carolina, who won his title in the Revolutionary War.

Much of the information in this paper was secured from the Memoirs of Mrs. Clay, entitled "A Belle of the Fifties," published in 1905, by Doubleday, Page & Co., New York.

HORACE L. HALDEMAN.

## Society's Annual Outing

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More than a hundred members and guests of the Lancaster County Historical Society attended its annual summer outing Friday, July 11, at Elizabeth Farms and Furnace, just north of Brickerville, Lancaster county. It was entirely informal and in picnic style. The visitors all arrived in automobiles, and the spectacle presented of thirty or more cars gliding over fine roads that lead to the place and through the woods and meadows was a very brilliant one. The company assembled in the grove northwest of the mansion house, where a basket luncheon was partaken of until about 1:30. Among the numerous guests was Miss Blanche Nevin, of Windsor Forges, who brought with her a new song, composed and set to music by herself, sounding a welcome of President Wilson's daughter to the Nevin family—the engagement of her nephew, Frank B. Sayre, having recently been announced. Miss Katharine R. Loose, of Reading, who has taken high rank as a novelist by her stories of Pennsylvania-German life and character, under the writing name of "Georg Shock" accompanied Mrs. Heber Smith, daughter of Hon. George F. Baer, to the occasion. Mr. B. Dawson Coleman, of Lebanon, owner of the old mansion, the site of the furnace and the surrounding grounds, and his sister, Miss Fanny Coleman, who is the owner and proprietor of



the Elizabeth Farms, consisting of about a thousand acres, motored down from Lebanon and received the guests.

At 1:30 p. m. the entire party was welcomed to the grounds of the mansion house, and found chairs, benches and comfortable seats on the west side of the mansion, and in the shade of the great sycamore trees that adorn the lawn. The company joined in singing "America," and, after that, W. U. Hensel delivered an address on the historic associations of Elizabeth. This was followed by the singing, in chorus, of Julia Ward Howe's "Battle Hymn of the Republic."

After this the visitors were entertained by Mr. and Miss Coleman by being admitted to the many interesting rooms of the old mansion, both the original part built by Stiegel and the part annexed by Robert Coleman when he acquired the property about one hundred and twenty years ago. The place is filled with antique furniture, splendid specimens of Stiegel's ornamental iron works, and other objects of great interest and value.

### **A Visit to Brickerville.**

During the day most of the participants made a visit to the old Lutheran Church at Brickerville, examining its antique and interesting interior, where an old wineglass pulpit and sounding board remain, probably the only devices of the kind now in our county. The interesting old stairways leading to the balconies, the very long stove-pipes which run from cannon stoves to the roof—the edifice being without chimneys—the straight-backed and very uncomfortable pews, and many other antique features, engaged the attention of the visitors. They also wandered through the old churchyard

and viewed with special interest the grave of Stiegel's first wife and the German inscription thereon, which are referred to in Mr. Hensel's address.

The visit of one group was made particularly impressive by its members singing in chorus and with fervor Newman's "Lead Kindly Light," and Luther's memorable "Ein feste burg ist unser Gott."

Altogether the day was most charming to all who participated in the occasion. The weather was perfect; and hereafter when any one wants to make fit answer to the poet Lowell's inquiry, "What is so rare as a day in June?" the ready answer will be: "Friday, July 11, 1913."

#### MR. HENSEL'S ADDRESS.

Mr. Hensel's address was as follows:

The geography of Lancaster county is unique and shapely. It has none of the formal rectangularity which makes the streets of a modern city or the boundaries of a political division in a prairie State so geometrically monotonous. Set in below a sort of roof-like range of hills, and packed between the Octoraro and Susquehanna, as now bounded and constituted, it is a most homogeneous bit of earth. The late Simon P. Eby described it as "kite shaped," and pointed out how the high wall north of us and many lower ridges which traverse it and cradle the intervening rolling lands act as wind breaks to shield its fertile fields from storm violence. Oddly enough, while its ranges of hills, in the main, run east and west, its waters, for the most part, flow from the north to the south, as they all meet tide in the Chesapeake—except a few Welsh Mountain

springs which give some flavor to the otherwise tasteless Brandywine. Four-fifths of its land is under the plow. It still retains its primacy in agriculture. The remaining bits of forest and the lush meadows are kept for "beauty made the bride of use." No run-down farms offend the eye of the capitalist; no shabby surroundings shock the artistic sense; every prospect pleases—not even "man is vile."

Although this venerable bailiwick suffered partition when York was cut off from it, and again when Dauphin and Lebanon were created, it remained a compact and almost complete epitome of a great Commonwealth—and propositions to further dismember it have never received substantial encouragement nor even patient consideration. The ambition of Columbia to be a county seat for the valley of the Codorus; Middletown, the region of the Conewago and the Donegals and Hempfields; the aspirations of Cambridge to annex Churchtown of Lancaster, Morgantown of Berks, and Honeybrook of Chester; the longing of Oxford to unite the southwest corner of Chester and the Scotch-Irish and Quaker lower end of Lancaster into a new county—all passed, like the thistledown, "noiseless out of sight."

The nomenclature of the county is likewise significant of the racial and religious diversity of its population, fused into a composite citizenship—soft and musical Indian like Cocalico, Conestoga and Pequea, Conowingo, Octoraro and Chiquesalunga; stately English, like Salisbury and Warwick, Manor, Penn, Little Britain and the Hempfields; belligerent Irish and stormy Scotch-Irish like Drumore and Coleraine, Donegal and

Kilbagan; the strain of Wales in Caernarvon and Brecknock townships; patient German, such as Strasburg, Manheim and New Holland; Sonneberg, Hasseberg and Bergstrass; pious and Scriptural, like Ephrata, Providence and Paradise; and patriotic American such as Columbia, Washington and Clay—being fastened upon its townships, towns, hills and waters. Its resources are as varied as its strains of blood and race. They exhibit not only a pre-eminence in the yield of the farm, but a profuse product of mill and factory, and even a variety of minerals that would astonish the inquirer who has not delved into this phase of our manifold and marvellous wealth.

Geographically the characteristic Lancaster county—the seat of Pennsylvania-German thrift—is underlaid with limestone; in its lower end, where the lighter timber attracted the more vivacious, but less plodding, Scotch-Irish, the soil is shale and slaty, while here along the south side of the Furnace Hills, the formation is Mezozoic sandstone and shale. This distinguishes every border township on the northern line, from West Donegal to Caernarvon, though a thin trail of trap rock boulders leads from the Susquehanna, below Bainbridge, by Elizabethtown, Old Line, White Oak and Mount Airy, to this locality.

#### **Elizabeth's Varied Associations.**

These physical and historic features of Lancaster county forcefully suggest themselves at this time, and especially on this spot, where the environing landscape is adorned on the one side by a Presbyterian church and on the other by a landmark of Lutheranism; amid these ancient and

handsome edifices of native red sandstone; in the shadow of the great hills, which, until the uncovering of the Lake Superior iron ore region, held the most productive group of mines in this country, and have already yielded nearly thirty millions of tons; between streams whose names, such as Hammer creek and Furnace run, recall days long past when their water powers were harnessed to active industries, whose wheels are broken and the fires gone out; and where the historic families of Huber, Stiegel, Grubb and Coleman, recall the lordly ironmasters who flourished as leaders in social and business life.

I can add nothing to the oft-told story of their rise and reign; but it may have a passing interest to you to be reminded that here blazed and burned for over a hundred years the famous Elizabeth furnace, so named for Stiegel's wife and Huber's daughter. Though these fires have been banked for more than fifty years, though the sod has creased out the rugged piles of slag and the wild flowers have wreathed the crumbled walls with festoons of fragrant beauty, the township in which we meet, when carved out of the earlier Warwick, took the name it bears from this fair daughter of its soil. It was not, as some historians have inaccurately recorded, bestowed upon the new district in honor of England's virgin queen. The fashion of naming the old furnaces for the wives, daughters or sweethearts of their owners was familiar, as exemplified by the Sarah, Lucy, Margaretta, Henrietta, Joanna and many others—just as the old Boston and Virginia skippers called their craft Sally Ann, Barbara, Mary and Susan. Even the old cargoes of rich

and ripe Madeira were cellared under the name of the schooner that carried them safely over. In our county I recall two young women—old now only in years—who gave the names “Alice” and “Mazie” to the canal boats of their father, gallant soldier of two wars, whose last trip on the inland waterways antedated Gettysburg.

### Stiegel and His Fortune.

The earliest associations of Elizabeth, of course, cluster around the career and character of that brilliant adventurer from Baden, who brought from his native Mannheim to the town he founded and named, youth, fortune and learning. It is by no means certain Heinrich Wilhelm Stiegel had the rank of “baron” by any grant except the patent of American fame and favor. But it is unquestionable that he came here at the age of early manhood with what was a very considerable amount of money for investment and speculation. If it was as much as 40,000 pounds it was enormous for that day. He was only twenty when he sailed from Cowes in the brig “Nancy,” and landed at Philadelphia, August 31, 1750. Nearly ten years earlier the possibilities of iron-making in this region had been exploited. The Grubbs, as we shall later tell, years before Stiegel landed on American shores, had been operating a furnace at Cornwall; the keen sense of that famous family’s progenitor had led to his acquisition of large tracts of mineral and timber lands, as early as 1737, which were destined to supply great furnaces for hundreds of years, and even to entail fortune on generations now unborn. Insignificant as was a plant that turned out about a ton of pig iron a day, in that early enterprise was the potentiality of vast industries

that have fed and fostered many thousands of families and brought their owners and operators countless millions. Before the Grubbs, in 1762, acquired Hopewell Forge, on Hammer Creek, it was owned by Jacob Giles, a Baltimore merchant. With that perspicacity characteristic of the Philadelphian's commercial sense—which later led some of its foremost citizens to make profitable venture in the lumber, coal and oil districts of Northwestern Pennsylvania, still later on the shores of the Great Lakes, and again on the Pacific—Thomas Willing had taken up lands in Cocalico, and John Wister had holdings in Warwick. The Stedmans, Charles and Alexander were pioneers of land and industrial enterprises hereabouts, and their purchase of 729 acres was from Isaac Norris, son-in-law of James Logan, to whom it was originally patented. Robert Coleman, Irish immigrant, born in 1748 at Castle Fin—which name later attached to a furnace in York county—found employment with Peter Grubb, at Hopewell Forge, on Hammer Creek, above Speedwell, and a few miles northwest of us. He had worked for the Olds at Quitapahilla, which is now Lebanon county; and before that he had tarried briefly at some of the Chester county furnaces, for over there they were making iron as early as 1710; and of such excellence that the English sought to extinguish American competition first by taxation, and then by prohibition.

#### **Marries Huber's Daughter.**

For two years after his arrival Stiegel arrived and prospected through the Colonies. He finally located in Philadelphia, where Jacob Huber, builder and founder of Elizabeth, doubtless had a town house. Just how and where Stiegel met and wooed

and won Elizabeth I shall not tell you—for there are some things a man can keep secret for a century and a-half; and, though he bought the Elizabeth furnace property from his father-in-law, as early as 1757, he kept a home in the Philadelphia house he had built until 1765.

That Huber was not of the thrifty and cautious Quaker tribe, lawyers and land agents, merchants and mariners, who sent Penn to Holland to import the German Quakers, called Mennonites, to fell the forests and to wear the farmer's yoke of patient toil; nor was he of the aggressive Scotch-Irish who braved torch and tomahawk and stood along the firing line that stretched from Donegal to Paxtang, to Derry and Tulpehocken. He proudly boasted not only his lineage, but his own pre-eminence, when he cut deep into the date plate of his furnace stack, reared on these grounds:

“Johann Huber, der erster Deutsche  
Mann  
Der das eisen werk follfuren Kann”

His furnace was no doubt a small affair. Sons-in-law generally make a venturesome advance on their wife's parents—sometimes for better; oft-times for worse. So we find Stiegel tearing down the old furnace and building a new one, as soon as he got title. On its walls, reared in 1757—and operated for just one hundred years—he promptly emblazoned a new legend.

He conquered new worlds, too, adding Charming Forge to his possessions and set out on that career of artistic stove-plate making, which supplies a new theme to the modern collector and historian.

Although he subsequently lived in Philadelphia part of the year, he and his family were domiciled at Eliza-



beth, as their membership in the Lutheran Church at Brickerville attests; and the burial in the graveyard there of his child Elizabeth, who died in infancy, and of his wife, who died February 3, 1758, leaving to survive her a daughter, Barbara. The inscription of his wife's gravestone runs thus:

"Here rests Elizabeth, whose lifeless body is committed to the earth until Jehova calls her to another life. God has already freed the soul in the love and wounds of Jesus, from the fetters and thralldom of sin. This is the tribute which posterity pays her memory:

"Elizabeth, daughter of Jacob Huber, departed this life at the home of her father. She was born 27th March, 1734, and was married the 7th November, 1752, to Heinrich Wilhelm Stiegel; died February 3, 1758."

Dr. Sieling, one of the most laborious workers on his biography, notes a singular coincidence, that Elizabeth Furnace, started in 1757, was finally shut down in 1857, after running exactly one hundred years; and that the church building which he helped to erect in the town of which he was founder was razed the same year, 1857.

### **An Early Iron "Trust."**

The Stedmans were associated with him in the original purchase of Elizabeth; and among him and them they rapidly acquired other lands—with resourcefulness of great modern enterprises which seek to assemble and control the sources of their raw materials. The sagacious contemporary methods of the Standard Oil Company and the United States Steel Corporation were anticipated by Stiegel when he collected in his purchase

3,200 acres of farm lands hereabouts, and mountain and forest acreage aggregating 7,000. Like the modern trust—decried as an “octopus”—he knew “when to take occasion by the hand”—and he was wise as they.

Stiegel was churchly. He was not of the “sect” Germans who have so largely peopled Lancaster county—differentiating it from the Pennsylvania-German—Lutheran, Reformed and Democrat—of Berks and Lehigh—but of the “high German” Lutheran stock, who did not translate Reformation into revolution, but felt they had simply purified the church and “had kept the faith” delivered to the saints.

Hence his active participation in and generous patronage of that historic Brickerville Church, which is one of the objective points of this picnic pilgrimage. Lutheranism took root here in 1730. The edifice you see there now was built in 1808, supplanting an earlier second church. Both it and Zion Reformed Church, a little distant and founded in 1740, were used as hospitals during the Revolutionary War.

Stiegel drafted a constitution for this church in 1769; he was always its active member and generous patron. The patriarchal Henry Melchoir Muhlenberg in his visitation to it was a guest at the Stiegel mansion. When fortune turned against him its parsonage afforded Stiegel a home; and, though his remains lie in an unknown and unmarked tomb, the best-founded traditions locate his grave beside his wife in the Bricker-ville Lutheran churchyard. He encouraged religious devotions among his employes and enforced them in his household.

His early wedded experience was brief. His first wife died February 3, 1758. One of his stove plates has this inscription:

“H. Whlm Stiegel Und  
Compagni for Elizabeth.”

More striking evidence of his devotion was that he would not remarry until he found a congenial helpmeet whose name also was Elizabeth. She was a Holtz; and their wedding ring, still in the family, is inscribed:

“H. W. Stiegel and Elizabeth  
Holtz-in.”

The affix indicates a female, as Mrs. Bricker was called Bricker-in. Though he died early, he also outlived his second wife.

### Art Work in Iron.

The modern stove is a comparatively recent evolution. For centuries the blazing fire of the open hearth was the best approved means of domestic heating. The so-called “old-fashioned Dutch oven” was an iron enclosure containing the edibles put into the embers and they were cooked by the enveloping coals. Then came the fire back, the stove plate, the Franklin stove, until the six and eight-plate stove provided a piece of furniture, useful and ornamental, which served the double purpose of cooking and heating. Finally, here Stiegel first accomplished the complete ten-plate stove, which lasted for a hundred years as the perfection of household art and use. An uneffaced scar on my right hand inflicted fifty-eight years ago, recalls an incident that impressed upon my memory, as well as my body, the efficiency and intensity of this domestic institution.

Albeit in that day of the artisan and artificer the creation of this article was much more than a mechanical achievement. The plates, which, when fitted together, made a stove, were the product of the sculptor as well as the founder. After the fashion of the contemporary tile-maker and the printer, the stove moulder selected scriptural themes for his composition; and, accordingly, there were perpetuated in these castings treatment of the old familiar Bible stories of Adam and Eve, Abraham, Isaac, Jacob, Joseph, Jonah, Moses, David, Goliath, Ruth and other Hebrew celebrities, until now there is a distinct literature on this subject. Under the erudite direction of Henry C. Mercer and the generous patronage of B. F. Fackenthal, Jr., both of the Bucks County Historical Society, the illustrated History of Stove Plates—Stiegel's conspicuous in the collection will be a work of rare merit and inestimable value. With pardonable pride in his achievement Stiegel inscribed on some of his more notable stove plates:

“Baron Stiegel is der Mann  
Der die offen giesen Kann.”

#### His Prosperous Time.

Had Stiegel contented himself with the mastery of Elizabeth, his romantic career—than which none is more pathetic and picturesque in the history of Colony and Commonwealth—would have culminated in abiding triumph. The lure of urban life and greater civic splendor of State ensnared him. In 1760 he had seventy-five men at work here; there were twenty-five tenant houses on this estate; the axe of the wood-chopper rang through these forests and the smoke of the charcoal-burner's pit floated from every hillside.

Prosperity tempted him to larger venture. The Stedman property to the westward, on the Chiques, invited exploration. Lottery schemes promoted land development in that day; Brickerville church gratefully acknowledges a contribution of twenty-five tickets from Stiegel. He bought a third interest in the tract to which he gave the name Manheim. He built the great house, later known as the Arndt property, for which he imported the English bricks, still to be seen standing in the south wall, and had them hauled from Philadelphia to Manheim. Rich tapestries, preserved in part in the Pennsylvania Historical Society, covered the interior walls; decorative Deft tiles—of which I am privileged to exhibit a specimen to you—adorned the mantels and fireplaces. The wainscoting was gorgeous; and the balcony cupola was spacious enough to accommodate the full band of musicians whose strains greeted his arrival at or sounded his departure from the court residence. This domestic extravagance was followed by his erection of glass works in Manheim, the edifice for which was a dome-shaped structure, also of English bricks, ninety feet high, spacious enough for a four-horse team to turn inside of it. Skilled workmen had to be imported, for it was the original glass works of America; and, though the fastidious Franklin spoke of its product as coarse and common, the Stiegel glass rings true to this day; pitchers, salt cellars, vases and glasses of this fabrication are eagerly sought and highly cherished by collectors.

By 1770 he owned all of Manheim; and when he rode in coach and four, with postillions and outriders, to Elizabeth, his approach was heralded by salutes from yon Cannon Hill. It is also related that he lived in constant terror of attack upon himself, and al-

ways had a pack of highly-trained hounds run before his cavalcade to scent any danger that might be lurking in front of him. He became widely known as one of the rich men and foremost captains of industry in Pennsylvania. Shares in the Stiegel Company, which widely extended its operations in iron-making, were eagerly sought. He entertained lavishly, and though he did not himself have Washington here, as tradition has it, his successor, Robert Coleman, is said to have welcomed "The Father of His Country," as a guest of Elizabeth. Any doubting Thomas may be shown the room—if not the bed—in which he slept and snored. Five miles north of where we are assembled, Schaefferstown way, he built a tower fifty feet square at the bottom, and tapering to a ten-foot top, where spacious banquet halls underlay cosy bed chambers, so that true baronial entertainment could be afforded his guests and retainers.

### **Collapse of the Barony.**

His local extravagances were supplemented by frequent and costly trips to Europe, taking out of his business as much as a thousand pounds for one of these journeys. When the clouds of Revolutionary trouble first overcast the sky his troubles began with the embarrassment of some of his Loyalist customers and debtors, whose credit suffered because of their lack of sympathy with the Colonies. Stiegel was suspected and his son was accused of pro British sympathy, and though from this he recovered, the derangement of business, his too manifold ventures and personal extravagances involved him in bankruptcy and he could only clear himself by a brief term of imprisonment, then and

long after one of the penalties of debt.

After a few months in jail he was discharged the night before Christmas, 1774, stripped of his Manheim property, but retaining some encumbered interests here at Elizabeth, which was leased to Robert Coleman from 1776 to 1783.

That Stiegel was henceforth subject to frequent distress is manifest from a letter to Jasper Yeates about this time, in possession of the president of our society. It runs thus:

E. I. January 24th, 1775.

Dear Sir—I told you last week that Conrad Mark had agreed to take up the action, which he did, but since sent a few lines he would not stand to it. Now, sir! you know my poor situation all I have is Trough the Indulgence of the assignee and judgment creditors and the charity of my friends, and as I am not in any business have enough to do to maintain me and family with what little I have to do, and besides he has no more right than any other creditor after I assigned all my estate. Let me, therefore, beg of you for the sake of me and my poor family to get him to drop the action which I believe he will do on your advice—I hope to get in business as soon as Times will Turn. In the mean time I hope you will act my friend, and as soon as I get able shall make satisfaction. Remain,

Your most obed't Hble Servant,

HENRY WM. STIEGEL.

(Endorsed)

To Jasper Yeates, Esq., by a friend at Lancaster.

The war which ensued later gave Elizabeth Furnace work at supplying cannon, shot and shell. One of Wash-

ington's chief concerns, especially during the Pennsylvania campaign and encampment, was to maintain access to the sources whence the weapons of war were supplied. Lack of arms and ammunition was a frequent cause of distress to the Colonial armies; and during the Valley Forge encampment, especially, the Commander guarded and kept open the path to Henry's gun-making establishment in Lancaster, his powder supply at Kimberton and the furnaces and forges like Warwick, Elizabeth and of all this region, whence he looked for cannon and shot. Forge men were exempted from militia service to make "salt pans" and other essential army supplies. But by 1778 Stiegel's order ceased; his creditors pressed him and he gave up his business battle, crushed and penniless. He found sanctuary in the parsonage of the church which he had so lavishly patronized; he surveyed, taught music and exercised other talents for a livelihood. In 1780 he craved and was given permission to occupy his tower near Schaefferstown, and he taught school in a little building nearby. He thence removed to Charming Forge, taught school and kept the forge books, maintaining a cheerful disposition ever, amid associations that keenly contrasted his later conditions with his earlier estate. His wife died in 1782, while visiting Philadelphia; he survived her scarcely a year, and died at fifty-three years of age. Though in all probability he was buried by the side of his wife in the Brickerville Lutheran graveyard, his last resting place is unmarked and unidentified; and, to a certainty, "no man knoweth of his sepulchre unto this day."



**Rise of the Grubbs and Colemans.**

His more astute and vigorous contemporaries flourished while he waned. The Grubbs, whose pioneer, Peter, had discerned the possibilities of the Furnace Hills, built their furnace at Cornwall, in 1742, assembled all the elements of iron-making, acquired great tracts of mountain land for coaling, until by 1783 their possessions extended over ten thousand acres. The name of Cornwall came from their English home; and Grubb's Landing, on the Delaware, near Wilmington, still records the place they first touched American soil. When Peter Grubb's estate descended, in 1783, two-thirds to his elder and one-third to the younger son, it included with Cornwall the Hopewell forge in this township.

That same year saw Robert Coleman elected to the Pennsylvania Legislature, thus beginning a career of public service which included twenty years of tenure as an associate or lay Judge of the county, through which he steadily rose to become the leading citizen of Lancaster county and foremost ironmaster of the country.

Later Curtis Grubb acquired Cornwall and 6,520 acres; and Peter Grubb, Jr., got Hopewell and 3,741 acres. As early as 1798 Robert Coleman owned half of Mount Hope and Hopewell, and in a later division Hopewell Forges, with 2,311 acres, fell to him, and Mount Hope, with 2,307 acres, to Henry Bates Grubb. That these large holdings of mountain and woodland should remain after a century and a quarter substantially intact, great natural parks, is a cause for congratulation and an eminent public service.

Robert Coleman first obtained by

purchase—May 9, 1781—a sixth of the great Cornwall estate from Peter Grubb, 3d., and the Coleman interests finally grew to five-sixths. Meanwhile Daniel Benezet had foreclosed on Stiegel's interest in Elizabeth; the Stedmans had sold theirs to John Dickinson, and, in 1794, Robert Coleman became sole owner of this furnace property, comprising ten thousand acres. He had bought Speedwell and its thousand acres nearly ten years earlier, from James Old, to whose daughter, Ann, he was married October 4, 1773, in Reading, where he had started as clerk to the Prothonotary of Berks county, being an especially expert penman. When he died, August 14, 1825, he was Lancaster county's only millionaire, and it has recorded the death of no other since—though I understand some of our fellow members are preparing to take that much with them on their heavenly journey, if they can find a pocket in their shrouds.

In course of time, the mutations of ownership at Cornwall and the muniments of title of both the Grubb and Coleman estates contributed no little to the gaiety and variety of jurisprudence in Pennsylvania; and the ensuing litigation was protracted, oftentimes almost romantically curious. It is enough for us to know that Mount Hope, through A. Bates Grubb, and, later the late Clement B. Grubb, ultimately lodged in the ownership of our fellow member and townswoman, Miss Daisy Grubb, where it is the seat of gracious hospitality. Speedwell, which fell to the Robert W. Coleman heirs, became as famous as a horse breeding farm as it was well known as a forge. The Elizabeth estates are maintained by Mr. B. Dawson and Miss Fanny Coleman, to whose cour-

tesy we are largely indebted for this day's enjoyment. Long may the present care and control last; and may these great areas of native beauty be kept unspoiled!

### An Old Church.

Brickerville Church, so associated with the Stiegel name, and neighbor to Elizabeth all these years, is one of the early outposts of the Lutheran faith. Few religious organizations have done more to make and write local history. Founded in 1730, its story is almost co-eval with the county. Its church lands were granted by the Penns. To it the patriarchal Henry Melchoir Muhlenberg made pious pilgrimage; and when it was known as the "Canastocken" region, here amid the snows of February, 1762, he preached the gospel of contentment from the text, "The meek shall eat and be satisfied."

Here the contumacious Peter Mischler, disturber of religious harmony, rebelled and repented in 1769; here died in his early history Daniel Kuhn, gifted son of that Adam Simon Kuhn, magistrate of Lancaster and vestryman of its glorious old Trinity; here came Frederick August Muhlenberg, in 1780, beaming benevolently on Stiegel's gift of lottery tickets; here was the centre of that prolonged church fight—1876 to 1886—which lasted longer than the war period of the Revolution added to that of the Rebellion, over which four juries wrestled and Courts became hopelessly entangled.

Now all is peace! The voices of churchly discord are silenced; the very air a solemn stillness holds. Where once the fierce flame leaped to kiss the sky, soft breezes murmur

through the harp strings of the clinging vine and overarching bough; and where the hot cinders scorched the seared earth, the velvet moss and star-eyed daisy now cover deep the foot-prints of the grimy toiler.

### The "Eternal Hunter."

But over these rugged hills and through these dark ravines there rides on stormy nights a phantom horseman and behind yelps a ghostly pack following "Der Ewige Jaeger." Far up, near the sources of the Sec Loch, and where Cornwall's fires light the darkest skies, mother's cheeks yet blanch as they wake prattling children to tell "the legend of the hounds," when, high above the tempest's shrieks, are heard the horn and bay of that elfish cavalcade. Like Sir Walter Scott's tale of the Pacific pirates, in which

Panama's maids shall long grow pale,  
When Risingham inspires the tale.  
Chili's dark matrons long shall tame  
The froward child with Bertram's  
name.

So abide in these hills the traditions of that roystering master of the furnace and forge—who, long before the Olds and Stiegels, the Grubbs and Colemans, laid foundations that were obliterated when the walls and wheels of Hopewell and Speedwell, Elizabeth and Cornwall, were reared. His line had long perished when they came; but how he delved and drank, and rode and cursed, wantoned and caroused; how he drove to cruel death all his kennel, even at last the milk-white Flora, ever caressing the brutal hand that bruised her—all this has been the ground work of stirring verse by one of Pennsylvania's first lyric and

dramatic poets.\* Out of the grisly past and of these grim hills its legendary echoes float down to us as the vestiges of a barbarous day when the Tubal Cains and their half-savage retainers of a primitive civilization long ago moved through lands now peaceful scenes of pastoral beauty. Their dark shadows rest but lightly on these happy skies—even as the summer cloud of a sunnier day.

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\*George H. Boker's "Legend of the Hounds."

## Minutes of the June Meeting

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Lancaster, June 6, 1913.

President Steinman presided over the regular monthly meeting of the Lancaster County Historical Society this evening, while Miss Martha B. Clark filled the secretary's place.

Miss Bausman, the librarian, presented the following report:

Bound volumes—Wisconsin Historical Society, Proceedings for 1912; Inter-State Commerce Commission—twenty-sixth annual report; life of Rev. Michael Schlatter, from Franklin and Marshall College, and six volumes of first series of Pennsylvania Archives.

Magazines and Pamphlets—German-American Annals, Annals of Iowa, Linden Hall Echo, International Conciliation, Bulletin of Carnegie Library, Pittsburgh; Bulletin of New York Public Library, Bulletin of Grand Rapids Public Library, two numbers; large number of our Society pamphlets, Pennsylvania Magazine pamphlets and a number of miscellaneous pamphlets, from Franklin and Marshall College; Constitution and Laws of the Sun Fire Company, 1833; several old newspapers from Miss Mary E. Smith, of Intercourse, Lancaster county; anti-slavery constitutional amendment, framed picture, from Rev. Dr. C. Elvin Haupt; postcard of Conestoga wagon (Gingrich's, of this city), used in trip from Wilmington to Erie, from D. B. Landis.

A vote of thanks was extended the donors.

Charles G. Baker, Esq., and Henry C. Carpenter were elected to membership and the name of Prof. John S. Simons, of Marietta, proposed.

Mr. Hensel, for the committee having in charge the suggestion of an outdoor celebration the coming fall, said that he had been in correspondence with members of the family of the late Gen. John F. Reynolds, and they feel disposed to contribute a bronze memorial medallion portrait, to be placed upon a granite shaft or slab, and he had hopes that some trophy cannon might be secured from the Government for the purpose of directing a fit memorial. Inasmuch as the Mexican War trophies were to be placed in Buchanan Park, and there was in contemplation a monument to Buchanan for that site, he thought that the Long Park would be the better place for the Reynolds memorial, and that sometime in September would be a favorable date for the celebration of "Lancaster County in the War for the Union." His committee was continued, with full power to appoint sub-committees and carry out the project.

It was decided to hold the annual outing of the society at Elizabetn, visiting the Brickerville Church and other points of interest. The following committee will arrange for the outing: W. U. Hensel, A. K. Hostetter and L. B. Herr.

The society received invitations to attend the Feast of Roses at Mannheim to-morrow, and the reunion at Donegal Church, June 18.

The paper of the evening was submitted by Horace L. Haldeman on the subject "Thaddeus Stevens and the Southern States," and it proved highly entertaining. It was read by Miss Clark.











